

Control of Floods In Andhra Pradesh

[English]

1122. SHRI DHARMABHIKSHAM: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government had issued any instructions to the Government of Andhra Pradesh regarding control of floods in the State, especially floods caused by Moosi river; and

(b) if so, whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh acted in accordance with those instructions?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b). The Government of India has issued Guidelines and Instructions to all the State Governments for the implementation of the recommendation of the Rashtriya Barh Ayog in September, 1981. Central Water Commission has also issued general guidelines for preparation of detailed Project Reports for Irrigation and Multipurpose Projects which include guidelines for flood control and drainage aspects. No flood control scheme in respect of Moosi River has been received in Central Water Commission for techno-economic appraisal. The State Governments are not required to submit the flood control scheme costing less than Rs. 100 lakhs individually to the Centre for techno-economic appraisal and investment clearance.

Solution of Bilateral Problems with Neighbouring Countries

1123. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the major developments in finding solution to bilateral problems with out neighbouring countries during the last one year;

(b) the important areas of agreement

reached with our neighbouring countries during the last one year;

(c) whether any talks are going to be held in the near future with the neighbouring countries for this purpose; and

(d) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d). We are continuing to accord the highest priority to strengthening our relations with our neighbours in South Asia on a bilateral basis as well as through the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

We have welcomed the establishment of a democratically elected Government in Bangladesh. The Bangladesh Foreign Minister visited India in August 1991 at our invitation. Wide ranging discussions were held on bilateral issues and it was agreed that the two sides would seek to resolve them through dialogue.

The emergence of multi-party democracy in Nepal would further strengthen the unique closeness of our bilateral ties. We are looking forward to the forthcoming visit to India of the Prime Minister of Nepal which will be preceded by the meeting in New Delhi of the Indo-Nepal Joint Commission for promoting cooperation between the two countries in the areas of economic, trade, transit, industrial, multiple uses of water resources and other mutually agreed matters. During the then Prime Minister's visit to Nepal in February 1991, numerous steps for speedy intensification of mutually beneficial bilateral cooperation were agreed upon including a high level task force to prepare a comprehensive programme of bilateral cooperation, which will be submitting its report very soon.

Our close relations and cooperation with Bhutan are being further consolidated and strengthened and this has been highlighted by the recent visits of the King of Bhutan. On these occasions detailed

discussions on all issues of mutual interest were held.

Our close and friendly relations with Maldives have been strengthened by a number of high level visits including visits in January, June and August this year of the President of Maldives.

The visit to Colombo in January 1991 by the then External Affairs Minister was successful in re-establishing communication with Sri Lanka Government and restoring a working relationship with it. On the ethnic issue, it is our view that the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement provides available basis for and reasonable settlement of the problem. While there were differences between the two countries on the ethnic issue, efforts were made by us to strengthen bilateral ties with Sri Lanka. This led to the signing of the Agreement on 29th July 1991 to establish the Indo-Sri Lanka Joint Commission, the first session of which is likely to be held in Delhi in January 1992. Meanwhile the Sub-Commission on Culture finalised the Cultural Exchange Programme and the Sub-Commission on Trade discussed measures for mutual expansion of trade and for stimulating investment in selected areas.

With Pakistan we have been making efforts for a tension-free, cooperative and good-neighbouring relationship. Even while Pakistan is involved in violating canons of conducting inter-state relations and the basic provisions of the Simla Agreement, we are engaged in a dialogue with that country for building confidence and for making progress in resolving bilateral issues. However, Pakistan's support to secessionists and terrorists in Punjab and in Jammu and Kashmir and its propaganda campaign against India and efforts to internationalise the subject of Kashmir in violation of the Simla Agreement stands in the way of normalisation of relations between our two countries.

We are now looking forward to welcome to India next month Prime Minister Li Peng of China. Since the visit of late Shri Rajiv Gandhi to China in December 1988

improvement in relations between India-China has been notable. A Trade Protocol for 1991-92 and a Cultural Exchange Programme for 1991-93 were signed earlier this year. The two countries have also agreed in principle to reopen their Consulates General in Shanghai and in Bombay and also to resume border trade. The two sides have recently held the Third Meeting of the India-China Joint Working Group set up to deal with the boundary question.

[Translation]

Oil Exploration In Ganga Valley

1124. SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM:
SHRI RABI RAY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil India Limited have struck oil in the Ganga Valley;

(b) if so, the places where exploration work was undertaken;

(c) the names of the wells where oil has been struck;

(d) whether the Government propose to undertake further exploration work in this area; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Seismic surveys are being conducted in Western Uttar Pradesh in Ganga Valley Basin by Oil India Limited.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) In addition to seismic surveys being conducted/planned by the OIL and ONGC, one well is also being drilled by ONGC at Kadamaha in West Champaran District of